(DD-II) service at Bangalore, a scheme to upgrade the existing Low Power Transmitter into High Power (1 KW) Transmitter is under implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

Escalation in newsprint prices

6980. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the abnormal price rise of the newsprint, both imported and domestic;

(b) whether the local manufacturers of newsprint have hiked the prices to take the advantage of market forces.

(c) whether the MRTP provisions will not be applicable to the paper mills, as they are exploiting the situation; and

(d) whether Government will ask the MRTP to investigate the price hike of the newsprint by local paper mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The price increase of indigenous newsprint is reported to be mainly on account of rise in cost of coal, power; caustic soda; imported pulp and other raw materials. Government have, however, no information about the reasons of the price rise of imported newsprint.

(c) and (d) The Government have no statutory control over the price of newsprint which depends on the cost of various components as mentioned above. Therefore, there is no cause for the Government to refer the matter to the MRTPC. However, as a policy; every hike in newsprint prices is referred by the Government to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) for a post facto study into its causes and justification.

Tie-up with CNN Television Network

6981. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a US television network CNN has sought uplink facilities in India;

(b) whether Government are considering the proposal for a tie-up between Doordarshan and CNN; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration.

Second Channel of Doordarshan in the State

6982. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Second Channel of Doordarshan has not been started so far;

(b) whether Orissa is such a State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to set-up Second Channel for Doordarshan in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan Metro Channel (DD-II) is available through satellite transmission throughout the country and can be received through an appropriate dish-